

CHAPTER NO. 954

HOUSE BILL NO. 3094

**By Representatives Pruitt, Armstrong, Brenda Turner, Buck, Ferguson, Eckles, Sherry Jones, John DeBerry, Odom, Arriola, Langster, Brooks, Bowers, Chumney, Brown, Cooper**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3182**

**By Senators Dixon, Harper**

AN ACT to establish the office of women's health in the Department of Health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated Title 68, Chapter 1 is amended by adding a new Part for the purpose of designating an office of women's health in the Department of Health.

SECTION 2. This act shall be known as "The Office of Women's Health Act of 2000" and is enacted for the purpose of educating the public concerning women's health issues and for advocating initiatives to enhance the quality of life for women in Tennessee. This office shall be designated from existing resources of the Department of Health.

SECTION 3. As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "department" means the Department of Health;
- (2) "commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Health; and
- (3) "office" means the office of women's health designated by this act.

SECTION 4. (a) The office of women's health is designated for the following purposes.

(1) To continue to educate and advocate for women's health by establishing appropriate forums, programs, and initiatives designed to educate the public regarding women's health issues with an emphasis on preventive health and healthy lifestyles.

(2) To assist the commissioner in identifying, coordinating, and establishing priorities for programs, services, and resources the state should provide for women's health issues and concerns relating to the reproductive, menopausal, and post-menopausal phases of a woman's life with an emphasis on post-menopausal health.

(3) To serve as a clearinghouse and resource for information on women's health by maintaining a current list of applicable resources and referring persons to the proper locations for obtaining such information. Such information shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (A) diseases that significantly impact women, including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis;

- (B) menopause;
- (C) mental health;
- (D) substance abuse;
- (E) sexually transmitted diseases; and
- (F) sexual assault and domestic violence.

(4) To collect, classify, and analyze relevant research information and data conducted or compiled by the department or other entities in collaboration with the department, as well as to provide, except as prohibited by law, interested persons with information regarding research results.

(5) To develop and recommend funding and program activities for educating the public on women's health initiatives, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (A) health needs throughout a woman's life;
- (B) diseases which significantly affect women, including heart disease, cancer, and osteoporosis;
- (C) access to health care for women;
- (D) poverty and women's health;
- (E) the leading causes of morbidity and mortality for women; and
- (F) special health concerns for minority women.

(6) To make recommendations to the commissioner regarding programs that address women's health issues for inclusion in the department's annual budget and strategic planning.

(7) To seek funding from various entities to carry out the purposes of this act.

(8) To conduct public educational forums in conjunction with other public health events and conferences in Tennessee, including the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, to raise public awareness and educate citizens about women's health issues.

(9) To coordinate the activities and programs of the office with other entities, including the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, which focus on women's health or women's issues.

**SECTION 5.** (a) The commissioner may appoint an advisory committee on women's health to assist in advising the office regarding the duties required under this act.

(b) The advisory committee shall be comprised of persons with expertise in and knowledge of women's health issues in Tennessee. If the advisory committee is established,

the commissioner shall determine the number of persons to serve on the committee; appoint a chairperson or co-chairpersons for the committee; and establish the policies and procedures under which the committee shall operate.

SECTION 6 Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-223(a), is amended by adding a new item thereto, as follows:

( ) Advisory committee on women's health, created by Section 5 of this act;

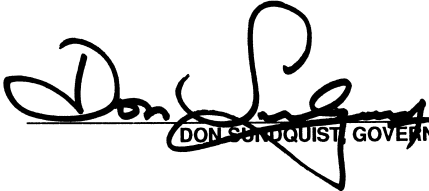
SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: June 7, 2000**

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2000**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR